

PENN SCHOOL HISTORIC DISTRICT,
BRICK CHURCH
St. Helena Island
Frogmore Vicinity
Beaufort County
South Carolina

HABS No. SC-588-C

HABS
SC
7-FROG.V,
4-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Southeast Region
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

ADDITIONAL
FOLLOWS

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4-

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE South Carolina	COUNTY Beaufort	TOWN OR VICINITY Frogmore, vic.
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Penn School Historic District, Brick Church		HABS NO. SC-500-C
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) St. Helena Island, one mile south of Frogmore, S.C.		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1855	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Part of a complex of buildings of one of the first black schools in the south (see cover form). This is the oldest building on the complex. Slaves built the church and the pews and took the building over after the Civil War.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Greek Revival elements		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) brick		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) rectangular		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE corbelled cornice, blind lunette, facade has recessed windows between pseudo pilasters. entries on all but the west side.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) balconies supported by Doric columns, original pews built by slaves, 1855-56		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Good.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE Listed on both the National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Cecil McKithan, southeast regional office and The National Register of Historic Places catalog, 1976 (p. 683).		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION C. Crawford		DATE April 1987

Addendum To:
PENN SCHOOL HISTORIC DISTRICT,
BRICK CHURCH
SC Route 37
1 mile south of Frogmore
Beaufort County
South Carolina

HABS No. Sc-588-C

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PHOTOGRAPHS AND
WRITTEN HISTORICAL DATA

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Addendum To:
PENN CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT,
BRICK CHURCH
HABS NO. SC-588 (page 2)

*window in chancel area. Single wooden doors on either side.

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE South Carolina	COUNTY Beaufort	TOWN OR VICINITY As of 4/1/88 St. Helena Island
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Brick Church (Penn Center National Historic Landmark District)		HABS NO. SC-588-C
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Central Baptist Church		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) One mile south of Frogmore on S.C. Highway #37		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1855 (NR nomination)		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Oldest building in historic district; during the Civil War and Reconstruction it served as the nucleus of the community of freed slaves and Northern abolitionists and was used as church, meeting hall, and school.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Greek Revival (influenced)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Rectangular, 2-stories, gable roof		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Symmetrically arranged windows, doors and brick pilasters, two stories in height and between windows and corners; central double door flanked by two single, four-panel wooden doors on principal gable end facade; 9/9 light windows throughout, all surmounted by brick flat arches, except for 9/12 light *		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Early (original) panel-ended wooden pews; gallery along three walls with panelled balustrade, supported by wooden columns, enclosed curving stair to gallery at each of front corners of building.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Basically unaltered; wood framing for roof and roofing material appear to be modern.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Presently used as church; fair condition (cracking at corners and elsewhere on exterior, at least some of which is due to erosion under foundation)		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Listed in National Register 9/9/74		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Nancy Pittenger, Andrew W. Chandler - SCDAB		DATE 4/5/88

ADDENDUM TO
PENN CENTER HISTORIC DISTRICT, BRICK CHURCH
St. Rt. 37
Frogmore vicinity
Beaufort County
South Carolina

HABS No. SC- 588-C

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20001